



CARO'S
— EST. 1995 —
WINE MERCHANTS



2021 BORDEAUX EN-PRIMEUR

Winter is coming, and it's time to stoke the fireplace and start thinking about Bordeaux. This year's En Primeur campaign has started, and we have the first offers for you on the 2021 vintage. After having the only trio of exceptional vintages in Bordeaux's history (2018/2019/2020), we were always going to come back to earth this year.

The weather threw every challenge possible at the Chateaux, and if this had come along 20 years ago could have been a bust. Yet the advantages of modern knowledge and technology, advances in vineyards and wineries, and vast stockpiles of capital, have all combined to produce a very successful vintage. Not only that, it is a vintage which is totally unique for modern Bordeaux, a return to the lower alcohols we thought we would never see again since global warming. Generally, we are looking at over 1% lower alcohol across the region than we have seen over the past two decades, just 13% for the left bank. This return to Bordeaux's traditional style is perfect for drinkers who appreciate a second glass, or two. We're also looking at wines that won't require multiple decades to be enjoyed.

Quality is not uniform however; in general only the best estates with the finest terroir have been extremely successful. Thus, it is neither a Left Bank nor a Right Bank vintage, but more one where the real cream has risen to the top, and patchy underneath. So, we have made some very careful selections this year from our favourite Chateaux with a demonstrated track record. 2021 is however a spectacular vintage for the dry white wines, the best in many years. The cooler summer has produced gorgeously chiselled structures, with perfect acidity and intense aromatics.

"The 2021 Bordeaux have turned out to be such a surprise. Weather conditions were challenging, and yet the top properties turned out gorgeous, classically built wines that will absolutely thrill readers who appreciate freshness and energy. Restrained alcohols and mid-weight structures will remind readers of Bordeaux pre-2000s. The best wines offer a striking combination of old-school classicism with modern-day precision. The 2021s are intensely aromatic and marked generally by red fruit character. The low alcohol style, classic for Bordeaux, is sure to appeal to both consumers and professionals who appreciate vibrancy and nuance."

Antonio Galloni - Vinous

"Some of the northern Médoc reds, with their intensely Cabernet Sauvignon-driven personalities, evoke the 1996 vintage. While sometimes nodding to such comparisons, the vintage's very best wines largely transcend them. But what is clear is that, were the 2021s transposed to the decade of the 1990s, they would be considered the product of a superb vintage... We may have lost the habit of tasting wines with moderate alcohol levels and classic pH en primeur, but anyone who enjoys the great benchmark Bordeaux wines of the 1980s and 1990s should seriously reflect on what the 2021s may have to offer in 10 to 15 years' time."

William Kelley – The Wine Advocate

"2021 Bordeaux white wines are extraordinary! While some very good dry white Bordeaux has been produced over the past few years, a lot of those wines were missing their racy acidity that spans your palate with freshness, as the weather in those vintages was simply too warm and sunny. That is not the case with 2021 Bordeaux white wines, as, for those wines, this is a very special vintage. The wines are vibrant, aromatic, and display a gorgeous sense of purity as well as crisp, biting acidities."

Jeff Leve - Wine Cellar Insider

Note: Our En Primeur prices are all up final landed cost including GST.

No second payment. We do this to ensure you have full certainty over what you will pay.



2021 BORDEAUX EN-PRIMEUR

TO ORDER, COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW & RETURN TO WINE@CAROS.CO.NZ,
OR CALL CARO'S ON (09) 377 9974 OR 0800 422 767

WINE ORDER FORM	QUANTITY	PRICE*
Château Bellefont-Belcier - St. Émilion 2021		\$85.00
Château Branaire Ducru - St. Julian 2021		\$95.00
Château Calon Segur - St Estephe 2021		\$230.00
Château Canon - St Emilion 2021		\$255.00
Château Cheval Blanc - St. Émilion 2021	SOLD OUT	\$1085.00
Domaine de Chevalier - Pessac Léognan 2021		\$140.00
Château Duhart-Milon - Pauillac 2021	SOLD OUT	\$160.00
Château Figeac - Saint-Emilion 2021		\$450.00
Château Grand Puy Lacoste - Pauillac 2021		\$145.00
Château Langoa Barton - St. Julian 2021		\$90.00
Château L'Eglise-Clinet - Pomerol 2021		\$580.00
Château Léoville Barton - St. Julian 2021		\$160.00
Château Les Cruzelles - Lalande de Pomerol 2021		\$57.99
Château La Chenade - Lalande de Pomerol 2021		\$44.99
Château Lynch Bages - Pauillac 2021		\$255.00
Château Montlandrie - Côtes de Castillon 2021		\$49.99
Château Pontet-Canet - Pauillac 2021		\$215.00
Château Rauzan-Segla - Margaux 2021		\$170.00
Saintayme – St. Émilion 2021		\$39.99
Château Tour Saint-Christophe - St. Émilion 2021		\$61.99
Vieux Château Certan – Pomerol 2021		\$630.00

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***All-up landed cost inc. GST**

Château Bellefont-Belcier - St. Émilion 2021

\$85.00 landed

A racy and refined Bellefont with stone, chalk and salty character. Wet earth and green olives, too. Medium to full body with a core of pretty fruit and solid tannins that are fine and polished.

93-94/100 - James Suckling

Spared by the April frosts, the 2021 Bellefont Belcier has turned out brilliantly, exhibiting aromas of sweet berries and cherries mingled with hints of orange zest and violets, framed by a deft touch of oak. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and seamless, it's deep and elegant, with refined tannins, fine concentration and a penetrating finish. Impressively, this 2021 appears to surpass the estate's 2018 in quality!

92-94/100 – William Kelly – Wine Advocate

Château Branaire Ducru - St. Julian 2021

\$95.00 landed

"A very pretty wine, showing blackberry and blackcurrant aromas with crushed stone. Medium to full body with layers of fine-grained tannins. Bright and refined. Lots of dark fruit at the end. Solid weight!"

94-95/100 James Suckling

"The 2021 Branaire-Ducru is sleek, elegant and nuanced. There is more Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc in the blend than in the 2018-2020 period, when the Merlots were especially successful. As a result, the aromatics are absolutely alluring, but the wine is much less forthcoming on the palate. At 12.9% alcohol, the 2021 is a classically austere Branaire that looks like it will need quite a bit of time to blossom. It is undoubtedly a very pretty wine, even if not fully expressive at this stage. Dark cherry, plum, chocolate, leather and rose petal linger. Tasted three times."

93-95/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"Purple and pink flowers on the nose, sweet strawberries and cherries and some milk chocolate notes. Delicate and poised on the palate, this has an air of elegance and refinement from the first sip, the sleek tannins giving support and a fine grip while the herbal Cabernet and Petit Verdot touches give spice, bright summer berry fruit and tension. This has a good core and persistence of flavour that doesn't let up, not weighty of particularly dense, but well defined and focussed. Stylish and glamorous in the best way while being understated - a difficult feat in 2021. Totally moreish and just so well constructed and delivered. A top wine! You get energy and precision here but it's the understated character I like so much, it just grows and grows quietly and then leaves you with the lingering impression of the beauty of St-Julien."

94/100 Decanter, Georgina Hindle

Château Calon Segur - St Estephe 2021

\$230.00 landed

"The 2021 Calon Ségur was cropped at 36hL/ha and aged entirely in new oak for a planned 20 months. This year, the gap between the Grand Vin and the Marquis is blatantly obvious, to the extent that they are practically different wines, which is how Vincent Millet and his team treat them. The Cabernet is firmly in the driving seat here, with detailed, graphite-infused black fruit and a background florality that comes through with aeration. The medium-bodied palate displays very fine tannins, superb acidity (pH 3.65) and impressive harmony. This has exemplary build in the mouth, fine weight on the finish and a persistent aftertaste. An outstanding Calon-Ségur, elevated by the risks taken in de-leafing in June and waiting to pick. Bravo. 12.9% alcohol. Drink 2027 - 2055

95-97/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

"A brilliant effort that will delight Médoc purists, the 2021 Calon-Ségur wafts from the glass with aromas of rose petals, wild berries, plums, Indian spices, woodsmoke and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, velvety and seamless, it's deep and lively, with beautifully ripe tannins and an exquisitely balanced profile. In spirit, this blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot is reminiscent of the 1996 vintage, though the 2021 won't go through such an extended period of hibernation and will attain a much higher peak of quality. It attained 12.9% alcohol without any chaptalization, saignée or osmosis. Tasted twice."

95-96+/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, William Kelley

"Thanks to the proximity to the river there was no frost here (nor at most vineyards in St Estèphe). They didn't start the harvest until 28th September and continued in good weather conditions until October 13th. Most of the Merlot was relegated to the Marquis de Calon. 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc. 12.9% abv and 36 hl/ha yield. Only 43% of the crop was used for the grand vin. Deep purple in colour. This has an almost vintage-defying ripeness with cassis and dark cherry fruit layered with hints of cedar, vanilla and toast. The palate follows, with a deep, dark fruited fore fleshing out wonderfully through the mid-palate, tamed by juicy acidity and persistent, fine, plentiful tannins. This has power and freshness in equal measure, with real matière. The oak is just the right side of toasty, and together with the fruit brings a lip-smacking salinity on the finish. This is a very impressive expression of the vintage, and is one of the best wines made in Bordeaux this year."

94-97/100 Thomas Parker MW

Château Canon - St Emilion 2021

\$255.00 landed

"A wine full of finesse and class with fantastic length and polish. Medium to full body with ultra-fine tannins that run endlessly down the length of the wine. Blackberry, graphite and spice. Agile and weightless."

96-97/100 James Suckling

"Dramatic, rich and imposing, the 2021 Canon is shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage. Sculpted red purplish fruit, rose petal, lavender, sage and crushed rocks all race out of the glass. A heady, vertical wine, Canon is endowed with tremendous concentration and class. The aromatics alone are beguiling, but it is the wine's balance that impresses most. Tasted three times. This is such an elegant and regal wine."

95-97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"Dark chocolate, perfume, violets, wild flowers and bramble berries on the nose, so much going on aromatically. Lovely succulence straight away, the bright acidity giving a mouthwatering effect and really delivering in terms of vibrant and lively fruit forwardness but with these lovely edges of graphite, slate, bitter chocolate, cream and salinity. So elegant and so refined as well as super stylish. I also love the cooling menthol Cabernet aspects you get all the way through and on the long finish. This has real class, but also an effortless quality to it that is so remarkable. One of the most memorable wines of the vintage! 3.37pH. Both Canon, Rauzan-Ségla and Berliquet are excellent achievements this year."

96/100 Decanter; Georgie Hindle

Domaine de Chevalier - Pessac Léognan 2021

\$140.00 landed

"The 2021 Domaine de Chevalier was terrific both times I tasted it. Potent and driving, the 2021 dazzles with Cabernet Sauvignon intensity in its aromas, flavors and overall structure. Graphite, spice, menthol, spice, rose petals, mocha and flowers run through a core of red/purplish fruit. The Blanc gets most of the attention at Domaine de Chevalier; but these days I find the red more complete and more interesting." Drink 2031 - 2061

94-96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"A medium-bodied DC with a pretty core of ripe fruit that shows licorice, blackberry and some currant character. Spice box, too. Very long, with fine tannins and plenty of energy."

95-96/100 James Suckling

"The 2021 Domaine de Chevalier is full of promise, bursting with aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with loamy soil, bay leaf, licorice, potpourri and spices. Medium to full-bodied, seamless and complete, its velvety attack segues into a lively, layered core, concluding with a long, nicely defined finish. Olivier Bernard doesn't think that this will surpass his 2018, but I tend to disagree. The 2021 is a blend of fully 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot."

93-95/100 Parker's Wine Advocate, William Kelley

Château Figeac – Saint-Emilion 2021

\$450.00 landed

Lovely aromatics right off the bat, good spice, white peppers, touches of savoury cassis. This 71% mix of the two Cabernets is the highest ever at Figeac, and you feel it in this savoury, rosebud, leafy character to the palate, brilliantly handled and one of the wines of the vintage. This delivers careful balance, sculpted fruits, with a juicy finish. 100% new oak. Romain Jean-Pierre technical director: 38hl/h yield, harvest September 21 to October 19 (with a three week gap between Merlot and Cabernet). 3.65ph. First vintage with the new cellar: 70% production into Figeac, 8% press wine. Tasted twice, excellent quality. Drink 2028-2044

97/100 Inside Bordeaux, Jane Anson

One of my absolute favourite wines in 2021 with Figeac's star power clearly on show. Amazing aromatic complexity on the nose; dark chocolate with perfume from the Cabernet Franc - pink flowers, red cherry touches vanilla and cinnamon - such a seductive smell. Pure and focused - so smooth and sleek with a clear tang to the palate. Quite taut, so defined and pure. The minerality comes through the sweet strawberry and raspberry fruit giving that chalky, salty flavour and texture on the palate. Everything is precise and in the right place. You can tell this is ripe, the concentration is there in the fruit, alongside such bright freshness but also these fun and playful red fruit flavours with lively acidity. Classic Bordeaux style with vibrancy, clarity and harmony - you feel the St-Emilion terroir and the understated glamour. This is an epic wine, a brilliant Figeac and contender for wine of the Right Bank. 100% new oak. 3.65pH. Drink 2028-2050

97/100 Decanter; Georgie Hindle

The 2021 Figeac was picked from September 21 until October 19 and matured, as usual, in 100% new oak. It has a very pure, elegant bouquet, the Cabernet Sauvignon imparting subtle pencil lead notes, blackberry and briar; almost understated at first but gaining vigor with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity and just the right amount of sapidity. There is unerring symmetry about this Figeac, which is extremely focused yet unconcerned about showing off. There is lovely piquancy on the finish. Unequivocally one of the finest Right Bank wines in 2021. Frédéric Faye continues to guide Figeac to the pinnacle of the appellation. (13.0% alcohol) Drink 2027-2060

95-97/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

Château Grand Puy Lacoste - Pauillac 2021

\$145.00 landed

"The 2021 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is fabulous. Bright and punchy, with terrific aromatic presence, the 2021 is a terrific example of the modern classicism of the year at its best. It's the sort of wine that needs years or maybe even decades to truly blossom, and yet all the requisites are there for that to happen. There is something about Grand-Puy-Lacoste that is absolutely striking in 2021. I can't wait to taste it from bottle. Tasted two times." Drink 2031 - 2061

94-96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

"A superb GPL this year with one the highest percentages of Cabernet in the blend. Rose hawthorn notes on the nose - really nuanced. A little bit more closed on the palate in terms of overt acidity and fruit but this has such a beautiful texture, silky smooth with fine tannins that are persistent and mouthfilling but very elegant too, they frame the ripe fruit and mineral flavours - lots of bitter black chocolate and liquorice on this as well as salinity too. This has a much more subtle power than many others - a tense core, tightly wrapped but presenting a lovely juicy fragrant cherry flavour with terroir markers in the liquorice and lick of wet stone and the gorgeous Cabernet eucalyptus on show. So much potential - this will be excellent. I love it! Once it comes around it will have a very long life indeed. Ageing 75% new barrels. 55% grand vin." Drink 2026 - 2045

95/100 Decanter, Georgina Hindle

"Very fine and polished tannins with lovely balance and beauty. Blackberries, blackcurrants and a creamy texture. Lovely finesse and focus. There's delicacy and beauty to this. 85% cabernet sauvignon and 15% merlot."

94-95/100 James Suckling

Château Langoa Barton – St. Julian 2021

\$90.00 landed

The first vintage vinified in the Barton family's new winery, the 2021 Langoa Barton is immensely promising, offering up aromas of cassis, cigar wrapper, loamy soil and black truffle, followed by a medium to full-bodied, velvety and seamless palate that's deep and complete, its vibrant core of fruit framed by ripe tannins and lively acids. It's a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.

92-94/100 – William Kelly – Wine Advocate

Bright plum in colour; this is skilfully expressed, austere but present red cherry and blackberry fruits, strict tannic structure that opens through the mid palate to allow some juice and sandalwood smoke to run through the fruit. This has less of the exuberant depths that we have seen in Langoa in recent vintages, a little more old school overall, but will age, and has appellation signature. 60% new oak. Technical director François Brehant, consultant Eric Boissenot.

92/100 – Jane Anson

The 2021 Langoa Barton was picked 27 September until 7 October; matured in 60% new oak. Analysis shows 13.03% alcohol. It has a well-defined bouquet with expressive Merlot this year. Hints of blood orange/orange sorbet percolate through the red fruit. It has a skip in its step. The palate is medium-bodied with a taut and fresh entry. Plenty of sapidity here, oyster shell tinged with a well-defined and quite persistent finish. Lovely length, this is quite a gorgeous Saint-Julien that will age beautifully in bottle.

91-93/100 - Neal Martin - Vinous

Château L'Eglise-Clinet - Pomerol 2021

\$580.00 landed

The 2021 L'Eglise-Clinet is a spherical, sensual Pomerol of uncommon depth and intensity. Racy and voluptuous, with terrific depth, the 2021 is striking. Crème de cassis, chocolate, new leather, spice, menthol and licorice all build as the 2021 opens in the glass. The combination of power and finesse is remarkable. I especially admire the energy and focus in the 2021. This is the first vintage that includes a parcel of Cabernet Franc that was previously used for the Petite Eglise. Drink 2031-2061

94-96/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

The 2021 L'Eglise-Clinet was picked September 27–29, a rapid harvest within three days; winemaker Noémie Durantou told me she wanted to beat the forecasted rain that would have diluted the fruit. Raised in 75% new oak, this has a less concentrated, mineral-driven bouquet that bides its time, offering nuanced pine cone scents with aeration. The palate is clearly built around elegance, with its finely chiseled tannins and wonderful crushed stone notes. Perhaps a more streamlined L'Eglise-Clinet, showing wonderful precision. This Pomerol never tries to outdo its limitations or ape previous vintages, lending it an intangible sense of honesty. Beautiful. Drink 2029-2060

94-96/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

Rich and precise on the nose, and here you see why austerity in tannic structure can be a rather beautiful attribute - carved, careful, precise, coming through as energy and potential rather than forbidding. Not as dense as the 2018 or 2019, think instead of the intellectual 2017 but with more depth to the tannins. Blueberry, bilberry, loganberry, violet flowers, slate, earth, mandarin zest and incense. Harvest September 27 to 29, no chaptalisation, 75% new oak. Drink 2028-2044

95/100 Inside Bordeaux, Jane Anson

Château Léoville Barton – St. Julien 2021

\$160.00 landed

The 2021 Léoville-Barton was picked from 27 September until 7 October; matured in 60% new oak. The alcohol is 13.12%. It has a clean and pure bouquet with blackberry, bilberry, cedar and hints of shucked oyster shell: focused and very well delineated, classic in style. The palate has a smooth and cohesive entry, very well-knit with beautifully integrated oak. Crisp acidity with the perfect amount of tension on the classically-styled finish, this Léoville Barton demonstrates the advantages of their brand new cellar (even though the reception was not finished in time!) I cannot see any reason not to own a few bottles of this in your cellar:

93-95/100 – Neal Martin - Vinous

A terrific success, the 2021 Léoville Barton unwinds in the glass with aromas of blackcurrant, wild berries and plums mingled with hints of pencil shavings, loamy soil and cigar wrapper. Medium to full-bodied, deep and seamless, it's concentrated and tensile, with beautifully refined tannins, lively acids and all the class that an elevated percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon growing in deep gravel can provide. It's the first vintage vinified in the Barton family's new winery, and I suspect that contributes to the ultra-refined quality of tannin this year. The blend is 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.

93-95/100 – William Kelley – Wine Advocate

St Julien's location next to the river Garonne saved it from the worst of the frost, and this is one of the best wines in the appellation. It has energy and plenty of depths of fruit to work through, with powerful spice notes of clove, white pepper and turmeric, with the fresh acidities in the cassis and bilberry fruit turned into a prop for propelling things forward through the palate. And even if all this wasn't the case, this is a wine to buy in 2021 in memory of Anthony Barton, long-term owner and Bordeaux legend, who died in January 2022. 60% new oak. Tasted twice.

94/100 – Jane Anson

Château les Cruzelles - Lalande de Pomerol 2021

\$57.99 landed

Gunsmoke reduction, clears quickly, and this is a successful interpretation of the vintage, with cooling and precise savoury blue fruits, and a whisp of violet aromatics. Fine tannins, well balanced, working with an unusual blend because higher levels of Cabernet Franc than normal. 45hl/h yields from early-ripening terroir. Look out for it. Harvest September 23 to 30.

91/100 – Jane Anson

This vintage, Noémie Durantou decided that one lot of Cabernet Franc was so good that she took it out of La Chenade and blended it into the 2021 Les Cruzelles. It has a lovely nose with blackberry, redcurrant, undergrowth and hints of bell pepper; that Cabernet lending more complexity. The palate is very well balanced with good depth and freshness, spicier than usual with a persistent finish. This would be my pick for Durantou if their Pomerol wines are out of reach.

90-92/100 – Neal Martin - Vinous

The 2021 Les Cruzelles is showing considerable promise, wafting from the glass with aromas of plums, sweet spices, wild berries and loamy soil. Medium to full-bodied, layered and impressively deep and concentrated, with lively acids and a saline finish, it's a terrific effort and as usual a benchmark for what is possible in Lalande-de-Pomerol. The 2021 is a blend of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc.

89-91/100 – William Kelly – Wine Advocate

Château La Chenade - Lalande de Pomerol 2021

\$44.99 landed

The 2021 La Chenade, from vineyards in Lalande de Pomerol that were saved from the frost, offers up rich aromas of berries and plums mingled with loamy soil and spices. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and seamless, it's built around powdery tannins and lively acids.

89-90/100 – William Kelley – Wine Advocate

The precision that you find so often in the Durantou family estates is fully on display here, with carefully placed redcurrant and raspberry fruit and gentle waves of campfire smoke. A little soft through the mid palate, but all in balance. No frost or mildew, giving yields of 45hl/h. Sandy gravel soils, harvest September 23 to October 1. Noémie Durantou winemaker.

88/100 – Jane Anson

The 2021 La Chenade is 100% Merlot, aging in 30% new oak. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it barrels out with bold notes of juicy black plums, kirsch, and fresh blackberries, plus wafts of charcoal, black olives, and lavender. Medium-bodied, the palate is plush and juicy with fantastic tension and a minerally finish. 2024-2031

86-89 – Lisa Perotti Brown – The Wine Independent

Château Lynch Bages - Pauillac 2021

\$255.00 landed

This is really cool to smell, with lead pencil shavings, iron filings and oyster shells. Blackcurrants, too. Full to medium body with layers of firm tannins, but a dusty and powdery texture, too. Lovely finish. 67% cabernet sauvignon, 25% merlot, 5% petit verdot and 3% cabernet franc."

96-97/100 James Suckling

The 2021 is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Maturation will be 18 months in 75% new oak in the new winery. Jean-Charles feels that it is similar to the 2008 and 2014 vintages.

One of the deepest-coloured wines of the vintage. Equipped with black fruit, nutmeg, allspice berries and a lightly exotic spice on the nose. The acidity of the vintage freshens the dark fruit on the palate, and together with a firm but ripe frame of tannins keeps everything tight and refined. This is a deep, vertical wine, the cassis fruit flecked with tones of graphite, wood spice and tobacco. There is a focus to the fruit here - there is not the blockbuster power of the past three vintages, this is rather a driven, intense, tightly coiled wine that will reward patience.

94-97/100 Thomas Parker MW

The 2021 Lynch-Bages, picked at 34hL/ha and matured in 75% new oak for a planned 18 months, has an outstanding bouquet, beautifully-defined and sensual, a mixture of black and blueberry fruit, very fragrant. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannins, good body and density, quite precise with a tensile finish. This fans out nicely on the finish. A very classy Lynch Bages with echoes of Jean-Michel Cazes' classics from the late eighties. 13.14% alcohol.

94-96/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

Château Montlandrie - Côtes de Castillon 2021

\$49.99 landed

Kicks off with the knife-edge austerity of limestone, with a delicate frame and oyster shell salinity, opening to peony floral aromatics and gentle raspberry fruits. Tight overall in its construction, needs to soften over ageing. 50% new oak, harvest September 30 to October 7.

92/100 – Jane Anson

A blend of 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2021 Montlandrie exhibits aromas of rich berries and cherries mingled with loamy soil, spices and potpourri. Medium to full-bodied, lively and incisive, it's nicely concentrated, with fine depth at the core and a bright, saline finish. Its Côtes de Castillon origins mark this out as the most tensile, mineral wine in the Durantou portfolio.

90-92/100 – William Kelly – Wine Advocate

The 2021 Montlandrie, the Durantou family's Lalande de Pomerol, was picked between 30 September and 8 October, matured in 50% new oak. A mélange of red and black fruit on the nose, light liquorice and freshly-rolled tobacco scents surface with just a few swirls. The palate is well structured and focused, fresh and displays well-integrated oak, though perhaps Les Cruzelles has a little more panache at this early stage.

89-91/100 – Neal Martin - Vinous

Château Pontet-Canet - Pauillac 2021

\$215.00 landed

Plenty of blackberry and blueberry with wet earth and crushed stone. Some spice, tobacco and lead pencil, too. It's full-bodied with layered tannins and brightness. Fine and chewy at the end.

95-96/100 – James Suckling

The 2021 Pontet-Canet is a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot.

Deep purple-black in color; it pops from the glass with vibrant blueberries, Morello cherries, and cassis scents, plus suggestions of violets, cinnamon stick, wet rocks, and forest floor with an exotic touch of cardamom. Medium-bodied, the palate has very finely grained tannins and well-poised freshness supporting the perfumed black fruits, leading to loads of minerally sparks on the finish of this very bright and shimmering wine. Harvest started on 24 September with Merlot, followed by the Cabernets and Petit Verdot on 4 October, and finished on 12 October. The wine is to be aged in 50% new oak barrels, 35% amphorae, and 15% 1-year barrels. 2026-2050.

93-95/100 - – Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW -The Wine Independent

Bright berry red in colour; nuanced blackberry and loganberry with bitter black chocolate notes from the first attack.

Lovely precision, good level of spice, earthy, unfussy, rose stem and blackcurrant bud. This was the third vintage with mildew pressure, but the team are now experienced, and I can attest to seeing the vines during harvest and remarking on how healthy they looked, with no-till farming helping concentration. Plenty of tannins give structure and are shot through with sinew and juice, this is an impressive wine from technical director Mathieu Bessonnet, with Pauillac typicity. Harvest 24 September until 12 October. 50% new oak, 35% amphora, 15% one year barrels, 15% press (aged in the amphora).

95/100 – Jane Anson

Château Rauzan-Ségla - Margaux 2021

\$170.00 landed

“The 2021 Rauzan-Ségla is absolutely gorgeous. It offers up scents of graphite, savory herbs, licorice, chocolate and plum, all beautifully lifted by strong Cabernet Sauvignon inflections. Naturally, the 2021 doesn't have the mid-palate richness and overall intensity of recent years. Readers will find a tightly wound Margaux that balances classic structure with modern-day precision. I can't wait to see how it ages. Tasted four times.”

94-97/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

“According to Nicolas Audebert, the 2021 Rauzan Ségla has a reduced proportion of Merlot, as a consequence of which it was felt that the Petit Verdot crowded out the final blend and was thus demoted to the Deuxième Vin. Matured in 60% new oak for an intended 18 months, it has a surprisingly opulent bouquet with conspicuous Merlot that has the hubris to vie for attention with the Cabernet. Very pure and well-defined, this gains intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with very finely chiseled tannins, displaying disarming purity and poise. Minerally on the finish, with just the faintest hint of dark chocolate on the aftertaste. Precision, precision, precision. (13.0% alcohol).”

94-96/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

“A showstopper of a wine for me in 2021. Wonderful aromatic intensity on the nose filled with perfumed fruits, chocolate and wild flowers. Gorgeous clarity and precision, the tannins are fine and powdery supporting the vibrant and energetic purple and black fruit; zingy blackcurrant, strawberry, cherry and plum with an overall creamy chalky texture and grip. Elegant and glamorous - so much styling on show, it feels polished and pristine with clear markings from the terroir but no harshness or austerity just great acidity and liveliness. Such mouthwatering salivation and lift at the end making you want another glass just to taste it again. Tasted twice and both times I loved it. Pure and precise with everything you want from a 2021. A yield of 38hl/ha. Ageing 18 months, 60% new barrels.”

96/100 Decanter, Georgie Hindle

Saintayme – St. Émilion 2021

\$39.99 landed

Beautiful juice here from this Grand Cru, cool, measured, reserved, precise blue fruit and gunsmoke reduction, with sinew and just a touch of swagger. Harvest September 28 to October 11.

92/100 – Jane Anson

The Durantou family's 2021 Saintayme derives from soils rich in large stones in Saint-Étienne-de-Lisse. Offering up aromas of sweet blackberries, licorice and spices, it's medium-bodied, lively and charming, with a fleshy core of fruit and fine, powdery tannins.

88-90/100 – William Kelley – Wine Advocate

Château Tour Saint-Christophe - St. Émilion 2021

\$61.99 landed

This is already nicely salty and chalky with crushed stones. Medium-to full-bodied with medium, firm tannins and a medium, juicy finish.

92-93 – James Suckling

The 2021 Tour Saint Christophe has turned out very well, delivering aromas of cherries and sweet berries mingled with hints of loamy soil and sweet new oak. Medium to full-bodied, pure and lively, it's elegantly muscular, with powdery tannins and a penetrating finish.

90-92+/100 – William Kelley – Wine Advocate

The 2021 Tour Saint Christophe is perfumed and high-toned on the nose, featuring blueberry and raspberry fruit mixed with violet and iris flower. The palate is well balanced with sappy black fruit, gentle grip, impressive balance and a correct, quite linear finish. Stylish and with good aging potential. It should end up at the top of my banded score.

90-92 – Neal Martin - Vinous

2021 Vieux Château Certan – Pomerol

\$630 landed

The 2021 Vieux Château Certan is a spectacular tour de force from Alexander and Guillaume Thienpont. What a wine. Vibrant and magnificent in its precision, the 2021 races across the palate, revealing seemingly endless layers of nuance over time. Dark blue/purplish fruit, cinnamon, new leather, graphite, lavender and crushed rocks all build effortlessly. The Cabernets are dialed up in 2021 and that comes through in the wine's flavor profile and overall feel. The purity of the flavors is just mind-bending. Harvest took place between September 25 and October 4. The blend is 67% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. Readers who can find the 2021 should not hesitate, as it is truly magical.

Drink 2031-2061

96-98/100 Vinous, Antonio Galloni

The 2021 Vieux Château Certan was picked from September 24 to October 6 at 38hl/ha and registers 13.2% alcohol.

It is a VCC defined by its Cabernets; Guillaume Thienpont told me they used all they had. "I would have blended more if we had more vines," he quipped. The nose unfurls with air to reveal graphite-infused black fruit, touches of undergrowth and tobacco – quintessential VCC aromatics. The palate is beautifully balanced with exquisite definition, not powerful and certainly not opulent, yet built around finesse, precision and charm. It seems to grow in stature in the glass. Pure class.

95-97/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

Ripe juicy strawberry, this has a gorgeous intensity on the nose, really fragrant and expressive, in a rich deep, heavily-scented way. You get the ripeness here with smooth, silky tannins giving depth and intensity on the palate. Succulent with a sharpness, that hit of freshly picked strawberry and cherry juice - electric and bright with tension and direction.

It's softly spoken in one way, so quietly confident, yet showing so much detail in another, saying: "looking at how charming I can be". It has freshness and tension - 'a cool climate VCC' said Alexandre Thienpont. Bright acidity through delivered gracefully and sensitively with a gentle persistence. I love the delicacy, it has body no doubt, but it's the detail that's so captivating. A wonderful wine that shimmers from start to finish and one of the best from Pomerol in 2021.

3.63pH. A yield of 38hl/ha. Drink 2027-2050

96/100 Decanter; Georgie Hindle